A PUBLICATION
PROVIDING INFORMATION
AND ITEMS OF INTEREST
TO HEALTHY FAMILIES/
MEDI-CAL FOR
FAMILIES EE'S,
CAAS AND HP STAFF

## Healthy Families Newsletter



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER, 2004

This newsletter is updated periodically and is downloadable from www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov

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## Improving Application Processing

Healthy Families is always looking for new ways to improve the processing of applications. Currently, one of the biggest issues is that of missing information. In the past, an applicant's HFP eligibility determination was conducted before a premium was requested. Oftentimes this would delay enrollment of a child. Now, the child may be enrolled much quicker if the premium is sent in with the application. Recently HFP has been requesting applicants to send in the maximum premium amount (\$9 per child) if the actual pre-

mium amount is unknown at the time the application is submitted. HFP will be checking in the database for indication that the appropriate payment has been made. If the payment has not been credited in the database, the additional premium amount will be requested as part of the initial missing information letter sent to the applicant. If the applicant pays more than the required amount, the difference will be shown on their next bill as a credit.

Therefore, you may receive inquiries regarding the change. The public is hearing about the direction

of this new policy from the Call Center and from the HF Handbook: however. it has not been implemented yet. It is in the process of being implemented and we will provide you a date upon which the new process is initiated. Once this new policy goes into effect, a new bulletin will be created in the CAA section of the HFP website to update CAAs and the public.



## When Does Mssing Information Have to be Provided?

During a four-month period (May – August 2004), 135,000 Joint Applications were reviewed for the Healthy Families Program. Of the applications reviewed, it was found that 68% of the applications that were received by the Healthy Families Program had some form of missing information.

Upon receipt of all infor-

mation necessary to process an application,
Healthy Families makes an eligibility determination within 10 days. Eligible children will be enrolled, and the applicants will be sent letters informing them that their children's coverage will begin 10 days from date of determination. However, if applications are missing information, applicants

will be contacted, and they will have 17 days to provide the missing information. Applicants have two ways of providing their missing information (MI) to Healthy Families: they can either fax or mail the information. By getting your fax to the correct department, your information will be processed quicker.

See "MI", page 4

## Did you know . . . .

Last year, Assembly Bill 343 amended the health care coverage portion of the Insurance Code by specifying that "All assistance offered to an individual applying to the program shall be free of charge." It went on to say "Except as provided in (this) subdivision or by a regulation adopted by the (Managed Risk Medical Insurance) Board, no individual or organization offering . . assistance to an applicant . . shall solicit or receive any fee . . . A person who violates this . . . shall be assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars for each violation." We will provide further updates related to the implementation of this assembly bill in a future newsletter article.

## Team Member Profile

In each newsletter, we profile a member of the team to help personalize the

## 'Simon' Zhigang



My name is Zhigang Zhang (first name pronounced 'tsi-gun', meaning "strong will" in Chinese and last name pro-

nounced 'tsang' or 'chang', meaning "to pull open a bow" in the ancient time.) My last name is one of the 3 most common family names in China; there were more than 25 million in China's last census. I go by "Simon" for simplicity sake.

This is my first job in the United States. I used to work in a large shipyard in southern China building cargo ships, oil tankers and navy ships. Though I learned English as a foreign language when I studied in a university in Shanghai, I'm still in the process of improving my English.

I love being an EE/CAA Liaison. As a newcomer, it really teaches me to learn about the ways of life for a very diverse population. I am proud to be able to contribute my own efforts to help the community.

My favorite 'sport' is travel. I've been to Europe, Japan, the Philippines and Australia. I have also visited cities like New York, Washington DC and Chicago, but nothing impressed me more than my driving experience to Yellowstone National Park. The wilderness of the West is really fascinating.

I also like music very much, and used to play an "Er-hu", a two-string instrument played vertically on the lap with a bow. My son was more "westernized" and started to play clarinet when he was in the Chinese primary school. He is now a member of the Sacramento Youth Symphony.

I'm currently living with my wife and son in Sacramento, a place where I can reach the seashore, snow-capped mountains, the desert or metropolitan areas all within a short drive.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We congratulate and extend best wishes to Simon and his wife for their new baby girl, Danwei, born December 1st.

"My
favorite
'sport' is
travel

## **Health-e-App..... What's New?**

Health-e-App (www.healtheapp.net) is a web-based application that CAAs can use to submit both Healthy Families and Medi-Cal applications online. Health-e-App makes applying for health coverage faster, easier, and more efficient. In fact, over the past three months, the use of Health-e-App has increased approximately 10% each month as more and more CAAs are realizing the benefits of Health-e-App over the paper application

The benefits of Health-e-App are numerous:

- 1. Completeness. A recent study found that 68% of applications that come to Healthy Families have some form of missing information. Healthe-App ensures that the application is 100% complete before it is submitted, so you can be assured that the application is not missing information.
- 2. <u>Faster Processing</u>. For each application, Health-e-App prints a fax cover sheet with a bar code at the top. When this is faxed with the supporting documentation, our system reads this barcode and automatically links this fax to the correct application. This results in a faster and more efficient processing time.
- 3. <u>Easier Payment Options</u>. With Health-e-App, applicants can make

their initial premium payment using a credit card online, a personal check online, Western Union location, or they can choose to mail in their payment.

- 4. <u>Fewer Problems</u>. Health-e-App has confirmations to maximize the accuracy of information entered. Also, because the application is electronic, there are no problems with illegible handwriting.
- 5. <u>Instant Preliminary Eligibility</u>
  <u>Determination</u>. Health-e-App provides preliminary determination on eligibility in real-time, a valuable tool when dealing with applicants.

To begin using Health-e-App or to get more information, please call the Health-e-App Help Desk toll-free at 1-866-861-3443. The Help Desk is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### How Can You Make Healthe-App Even Faster?

One of the chief benefits of Health-e-App is faster processing times. Did you know that you could make this even faster? By following a few simple steps, you can make sure that your application goes to the front of the line for processing.

Fax in all the supporting documents within 24 hours. If you complete the Health-e-App and then wait more than a day to fax in the supporting documents, it will actually slow down the processing of the application. We can automatically match up the Health-e-App with the fax as long as it comes in within 24 hours. If the fax is received after that time, it has to be manually matched to the Health-e-App, which is a much slower process.

#### <u>Use the fax cover sheet printed from</u> <u>the Health-e-App Website</u>.

The fax cover sheet has bar-coded information necessary to automatically match the fax to the Health-e-App. If you use your own fax cover sheet, the fax will have to be manually linked.

## Fax only one family's supporting documents at a time.

If you fax multiple families' supporting documents at the same time, the fax will arrive as a single document and will consequently match all the support documents to the Health-e-App of the family on top. This will not only slow down the Health-e-App process, but may cause faxes for some families to be mismatched.

## **HFP Call Center Updates**

Over the last several months we have made many improvements in our Call Center, and we hope you have noticed some positive changes. These changes allow us to answer more calls more quickly in order to provide better customer service. In October, Call Center Operators answered over 254,000 calls, and the majority of those were answered within 25 seconds. The number of calls answered and the abandonment rate (means the caller got tired of waiting for an op-

erator and hung up; a statistic that we want to keep very low) provide good examples of this dramatic improvement. In March 2004, Call Center Operators answered 81,245 calls on the Healthy Families toll-free line and abandoned 5.26% of the calls received. In comparison, Call Center Operators answered 121,580 calls on the same toll-free line in October 2004 and only abandoned 1.04% of the calls received. While our contract requires us to keep the abandonment

rate below 3%, you can see that we met that requirement with room to spare! This is not something that occurred only in October; in fact, we have been consistently meeting all the Call Center performance requirements since July, 2004. Our goal is to continue to improve our service and to exceed the highest quality standards.

See "Call Center", page 4

### **Call Center** (Continued from page 3)

We have heard your concerns regarding the inability to speak with a supervisor and customer service that may be less than established standards over the last several months. We take them seriously and have been active in addressing them. The additional staffing, training and the Triple C unit are all in response to your feedback. Here are examples of the steps we have taken to respond to your suggestions.

Over the last few months, all Call Center Operators have completed two supplemental training courses in an effort to improve customer service skills. The first course focused on how to properly document work requests necessary to route individual cases to other departments. The second course focused on Customer Enthusiasm. This course taught the operators how to provide quality customer service while giving them the tools to handle "the difficult call" without losing their cool. Both courses were mandatory for the entire Call Center staff.

Our training department continues to develop and provide courses relative

to the needs of a large call center. We provide Supervisors and Operators with monthly training to ensure their skills remain sharp. The more they know, the better service they can provide to callers.

In October, we opened the Call Center Command, or "Triple C." The purpose of this new unit is to handle calls that require immediate attention and to deal directly with those cases that somehow get "stuck" in an endless loop. The Triple C has a staff member from our Eligibility unit that works in conjunction with the call center supervisors to provide on-the-spot solutions for the member. Twenty-three supervisors rotate two-hour shifts in order to staff the Triple C from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This new unit has also allowed us to spot trends and communicate them to the floor much more quickly. Our immediate reaction is that the new Triple C is a huge success.

We hope you have noticed the improvements, but we are not done yet. Our ultimate goal is not just to be better, but to be the best!



## **CAA Reference Manual Updated**

The California Healthy Families Program has recently published an October 2004 version of the CAA Reference Manual for your use. This information can be accessed from the Healthy Families website by going to

#### www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov

then clicking on "Information for EEs and CAAs" then clicking on "CAA Reference Manual." The major updates to the manual are reflected in Section 10: Required Documents. Please visit this section of the website frequently to access the most current version of this very useful information.

### MI (Continued from page 1)

There are <u>four different fax numbers</u> for applicants to use:

To send information related to a Program Review, fax it to: (866) 848-4974

To send information related to an AER, fax it to: (866) 848-4975

To send supporting documents for a Health-e-App, fax it to:

(866) 848-4976

To send information related to a new application, fax it to: (866) 848-4977

#### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 138005, Sacramento, CA 95813-9984

If Healthy Families does not receive the missing information within 17 days of determination, the application will be denied. If the MI is sent within 60 days of the determination, the applica-

tion will be processed; after 60 days, the applicant needs to re-apply.

### July 2004 Changes to the Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) Program

The Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) Program provides low cost health insurance coverage to uninsured, mid-income pregnant women and their infants. AIM is part of California's efforts to increase access to health coverage of pregnant women and their infants. The State of California



supplements the subscriber's contribution to cover the full cost of care. AIM is funded from tobacco tax funds. Listed below are key points which differentiate enrollment into the program prior to 6/30/04 and enrollment into the program 7/1/04 and beyond.

- ◆ For subscribers enrolled in the AIM Program on or after July 1, 2004, the total cost is now just 1.5% of the adjusted annual household income (previously 2%)
- ♦ Babies born to moms enrolled in the AIM Program on or after July 1, 2004, are eligible for enrollment in the Healthy Families Program, California's low cost insurance that provides health, dental and vision coverage to children who do not have insurance today and do not quality for no-cost Medi-Cal

#### New Outreach Email Address

HFP has recently established an outreach email address (<a href="https://example.com">HFPOutreach@MAXIMUS.com</a>) for our community partners. Health plans, schools, outreach groups, etc. will use this email address to send HFP advance notices of upcoming events throughout the state. This information will be used by HFP to staff our Call Center appropriately during these event times. This will enhance our ability to provide each caller with excellent customer service.

### **CAA On-Line Web-Based Training in Development for New CAAs**

HFP is currently working on a Web-Based training curriculum for new CAAs. CAAs statewide will be able to log onto a secured site 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, and complete on-line training to become a certified CAA. This new and exciting approach to training CAAs will be available the first part of 2005.



## "Thank you" to new CAAs & EEs

Healthy Families wants to congratulate and thank the following new CAAs and EEs for their dedication to their communities:

### CAAs

Aguilar, Angie Alcala, Rosemary Alvidrez, Mark Amador, Myra Ambriz, Carolina Aragon, Juana Archer, Tracy Arreola, Javier Avendano, Elizabeth Avila, Norma Avila, Caridad Badajos, Yuririam Bajarias, Chris Beltran, Nereyda Baldwin, Grace Bangloy, Peachie Banh, Nga Q. Banuelos, Angie Barrera, Maria Isabel Basi. Pali Baskerville, Sheaton Baumann, Debra Beaudette, Terri Bedoy, Jessica Begley, Pat Benitez, Michelle Berchielli, John Berinti, Beth Biddle, Zulma Blanco, Magali G. Blanco, Maura Blankenship, Tamara Blue, Kimberly Bobadilla, Lorraine Bocanegra, Sandy Bocker, Erika Boyd, Sandra Briseno, Doreen Bronson, Lizz Brown, Mariah Bufanda, Robert Buidett, Beth Clemons, Penny Burkhart, Linda Bustamante, Sylvia Byers, Virginia Cabrera, Virginia Cabrera, Maria Corral. Paula Cadle, Carrie Candelaria, Tara Cardona, Sandra Cariaga, N.D., Lenore Carrenno, Johanna Casanova. Henrietta Castilleja, Richard Castro, Josie Cedillo, Carmen Cerrel. Omar Cerrio Jr., Mario

Chavez, Amanda Chung, Donna Cleveland, Mitzi Donovan, Sue Collignon, Genevieve Columna, Wilmelenne Comeaux, Lorie Commissaris, Stephanie Contreras, Priscilla Espinoza, Karla Coronado, Fernando Corral. Paula Corrales, Nury Cruz. Rafael Corrales, Laura Correa, Maria Covarrubias, Hector Crawford, Maralyn Davis, Charlotte Cruz, Kathy Cruz, Amy Cushing, Lawrence Czarkowski, Debbie Danna, Yolanda Dauley, Fabiola Davila, Neddy Dayaw, Maria Dean, Sharon Delatorre, Lucia Donato, Sally Della Maggiore, Charlene Delp, Sarah Deniz, Vanessa Derry, Karen Doak, Darcy Dobson, Debbie Dominguez, Olivia Donohue, Evonne Drumheller, Anysia Duarte, Marbella Ebert. Beniamin Echeverria, Nancy Enberg, Mary-Ann Enriquez, Elvira Enriquez, Aurelia Escudero, Martha Escudero, Carlos Esper, Elizabeth Estrada, Jennervs Ferrel, Catherine Fimbres, Marisela Fitzpatrick, Jung Fitzpatrick, Morgan Flores, Ada Flores, Sandra Flores, Claudia C. Flores, Laura Forjan, America

Franco, Dora

Franco, Jerry

Fredericks, Bob

Fritsch, Kasey

Fuentes, Laura Fung, Florence Galeana, Nohemi Gallardo, Luz Gallegos, Peter Galvan, Marv Gamarra, Larissa Garcia, Norma Garcia, Velia Garcia, Herman Garcia, Magali Garza, Meranda Gaspar, Simona Lor. Nathalie Gibson, Carol Giron, Victor Gomez, Maria Gomez. Arturo Gomez, Gisela Gonzalez, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Maritza Gonzalez, Lucina Gonzalez, Yesenia Gonzalez, Maria Gonzalez, Rosi Gonzalez, Magdalena Gonzalezz-Hernandez, Candv Gould, Stacey Gracian, Isela Granados, Diane Graves, Linda Green. Katv Griffith, Jasmin Griffith, Lori Guevara, Diana Gutierrez, Ericka Naters, Carmen Gutierrez, Angelica Gutierrez, Alicia Hart, Linda Herman, Alma Hernandez, Katia Hernandez, Alicia Hernandez, Patricia Hernandez, Maria Hernandez, Mauricio Hestand, Julie Holman, Linda Howard, Letrice Hsiung, Jianre Hussian, Dolly Huynh, Be Jackson, Jennifer Jacobo, Lucinda Jang, Yihyun Jeong, Susan Jimenez. Theresa Jimenez, April Johnson, Sarah Kima

Jones, Tressa

Ponce, Maria

Jordan, Shalondra Lucero, Isabel Joya, Betty Juarez, Jessica Kachumia, Conrad Kang, JeeJung Kebede, RN, PHN, Teddy King-Abraham, Debra Kintanar, Paul Kosman, Alicia Kuca, Kristina Kwan. Jennifer Lambert, Tammy Lampella, MaryEllen Le, Thong Leandro, Graciela Lee, See Lee. Bertha Lee. Jeannie Lee, Ryan Lee, Insung Leiva, Sandra Leong, RN, CNS, MS. Yuko M. Lieby, Geri Loewenstein, Devin Lopez, Cecilia Lopez, Maria M. Saldana, Marina Lopez, Claraine Lopez. Paula Lopez, Birtha Lott. Nicolas Lucero, Isabel Luna, Leticia Ly, Ai Madrid, Frika Madrigal, Elizabeth Magallanes, Marivel Magna, Flora Mangiaracina, Alicia Manzo, Mayra Maravilla, Rosalinda Marroquin, Angela Martin, Lori Martin, Maria Martin, Veronica Martin, Melissa Martinez. Yesenia Martinez, Cynthia Martinez, Vicky Martinez, Perla Martinez Peterson, Dolores Maxwell, Tiffany Maya, Paul McAbee, Jennifer McCoy, Lisa McCracken, Lacinda Perea, Juanita McElyea, Nadine Melendez, Rebecca

Melfa, Paula Mendez. Maria Mendoza, Maria Mendoza. Maria Mendoza, Luis Mercado, Jeanette Williamson, Teresa Mercado, Laura A. Zepeda, Zenaida Millikan, Debby Milsap, Sophia Modi. Masoom Montoya, Mary Ann Morales, Luz Morales, Irma Moreno, Guadalupe Moreno, Araceli Moreno. Silvia Moreno, Isboset Murphey, Jeanna Murray, Naomi Musones, Melissa Naylor, Carol Neal, Cheryl Neufeld, Barnett Newell, Elizabeth Norris. Guadalupe Ochoa, Jessica Olivarez, Denise Oropeza, Elizabeth Ortiz. Veronica Outten, Versie Oyekunle, Segun Oyekunle, Funmi Papini. Joanne Parenzin, Doris Park. Kenza Payne, Colleen Pedregon, Mathew Perello, Claudia Perez. Nancv Perkins, Mary Perkins. Sherrie Perry, Brandy Phan. Stephanie Pinon. Gloria Ponce, Maria Porras, Jessica Quintanilla, Cristina Quintero, Elia Ramirez, Abel Ramirez, Jesus Ramirez, Veronica Ramirez, Celina Rangel, Annette Ranjan, Vandana Rayas, Jennifer Renteria, Sylvia Reyes, Gloria Reyes, Michelle Reyes, Miny Reyes, Maria G.

# CAAS Cont'd from page 6

Reyna, Mike Reynoso, Isabel Rivera, Olga Rivera Romero, Debra Robberstad, Melinda Rodgers, Kimberly Rodriguez, Carlos Rodriguez, Bhavana Rodriguez, Alma Rodriguez, Sandra Rogers, Yolanda Romero, Gabriella Rubinol. Maria Ruiz, Maria Sahagun, Martha Sahakian, Izabella Saldana, Marina Sanchez, Veronica Verduzco, Johanna Sauter, Kem Savin-Duenas, Flora Saxe. Tamar Sayeed, Farhana Shahid, Farhana Shen. Suzettv Silva, Lucia Simon, Brittany Smit, Theresa Smith, Sylvia Song, Steven Song. Sharon Soriano-Lau, Romy Stallworth, Precious Steele, Shirley Stepanian, Anna Stewart, Abigail Stoops, Kyrsten Strogan, Alma Suen, Siuchi Suthard, Milea Takashima, Emaka Tchalikian, Sonia Thao, Ka Thomas, Leon

Thurman, Sharon

Torres, Ernestina

Reference Manual)

Torres, Eric Torres, Francisco Toten, Jennifer Tran. Vivien Tsang, Suzanne Valadez, Geneva Valadez-Barillas, Claudia Valencia, Erica Valle, Grace Valle, Abraham Vallejo, Sonia Vargas, Toni Vargas, Rosa Vasquez, Maria Vazquez, Blanca Vazquez, Veronica Vazquez, Jose L. Vega, Mary Ann Velez Alma Veliz, Luz Veliz Lua. Bianca Vera. Alexandra Verduzco, Johanna Vieira, Megan Villegas, Veronica Vue, Judy Vuong, Nu Vuyovich, Aileen Wathern, Michelle Watson, Jolene Watson. Thornwell Weiss, Nicole Welker, Nancy Whipple, Nazarie White, Michelle Williams, Finley Wilson, Christine Winter, Wendee Wright, Sarah Ybarra, Julio Yeo, Michelle Youn, Francis Young, Lania Young, Bernadette

Zaccaria, Christen

Zamora, Myra

#### **EEs**

Alameda Corridor Jobs Coalition (ACJC) All Care Medical Group, Inc. Long Beach Unified School District / School Health Center American Lung Association American Lung Association of the Central Coast Armona Family Resource Center Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Asian pacific American Legal Center of Southern California California Mental Health Charterhouse Center for **Families** Clinica Materna Infantil Conejo Valley Free Clinic Corcorna Family Resource Center Cosco Insurance Agency, Inc. Dedicated to Service Insurance Agency Magali G. Blanco Insurance Agency Corcorna Family Resource Center The Salvation Army - West wood Transitional Village Diana Zepeda (Bebe's Family Child Care) Dr. Roger Takia East LA Community Corporation Ellis N. Beesley, Jr. M.D., F.A.A.P. Family Resource & Referral Center First 5 Santa Clara County

Foundation for Health

Fredericks Benefits

Coverage Education

Fresno County Office of

Corcoran Family Resource

Education / Health Services

Fresno Women's Medical Group Fullerton School District Happy Care Medical Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County Heritage Institute for Family Advocacy JWCH Institute, Inc. Kabir Huda Kim Perfect Insurance Services Kings Partnership For Chil dren/Hand In Hand FRC Lao Khmu Association, Inc. Catholic Charities Comprehensive Community Health Center Magali G. Rivera Insurance Agency Manteca USD Health Services Doctor's Hospital Medical Center Harriman Jones Medical SafeGuard Health Plans, Inc. Western Southern Life Matthew Hamrock Mill Medical Clinic, Inc. National Health Services, Inc. Orchard Medical Center Pleasant Valley Neighborhood for Learning Pacific Free Clinic Parkview Community Hospital Medical Center Pediatric Partners People Coordinated Services Primerica Financial Services Salud Clinica Medica SJCOE Migrant Education St. George Dental Center St. Joseph's Medical Center The Salvation Army - West

#### **CONTACT US**

EE/CAA telephone 1-800-279-5012

Email ee-caaliaison@maximus.com

Web site <u>www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov</u>
(& downloadable Choose "Information for

Menu on the left

EE's and CAAs" in the

### **December Training Schedule**

Clinic

Youliang Zhao

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Ventura County

Day 1-9 am to 1 pm Day 2-9 am to 5 pm

wood Transitional Village

Anaheim City School District

Watts Healthcare Corporation

Western Dental Services, Inc.

William C. Swanson Medical

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Los Angeles County

Day 1-9 am to 1 pm Day 2-9 am to 5 pm